

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An immunopotentiator for mammals, which comprises as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a special-nucleic acid base, a derivative thereof or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the special-nucleic acid base, wherein the nucleic acid base is at least one selected from the group consisting of 8-oxoadenine, 2-oxoadenine, 5-hydroxyuracil, 5-formyluracil, 5-formylcytosine, 8-nitroguanine, thymine glycol, cytosine glycol, hypoxanthine, oxanine, pyrimidine dimer, O⁶-methylguanine, O⁴-methylthymine, and a microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base, wherein the microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base is selected from the group consisting of N⁶-methyladenine, 5-hydroxymethyluracil and 5-hydroxymethylcytosine.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 3claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid containing contains the microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base is base and is a nucleic acid having a base the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

6. (Previously Presented) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence.

7. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence is a nucleic acid having the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. (Currently amended) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 3claim 1, wherein the microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base is from microbe is a virus or a bacterium.

9. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

10. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an inflammatory cytokine, which comprises administering the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 to cultured cells to enhance an immunoactivity of the cultured cells and produce the inflammatory cytokine.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an inflammatory cytokine, which comprises ~~simultaneously-administering to cultured cells the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence claim 6 to further enhance an immunoactivity of the cultured cells~~ and produce the inflammatory cytokine.

12. (Withdrawn) Cultured cells producing an inflammatory cytokine, to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 is administered to enhance an immunoactivity.

13. (Withdrawn) Cultured cells producing an inflammatory cytokine, to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence are simultaneously administered to further enhance an immunoactivity.

14. (Withdrawn) The cultured cells as claimed in claim 12, which are derived from mammals including humans.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing an immunoactivity of mammals, which comprises administering to mammals the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 to enhance an immunoactivity of mammals.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing an immunoactivity of mammals, which comprises simultaneously administering to mammals the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence to further enhance an immunoactivity of mammals.

17. (Withdrawn) Non-human mammals to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 is administered to enhance an immunoactivity.

18. (Withdrawn) Non-human mammals to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence are simultaneously administered to further enhance an immunoactivity.

19. (Withdrawn) The non-human mammals as claimed in claim 17, which are mice.